

Atty. Docket No. MP0227
Application No: 10/619,278

Amendments to the Figures

Figures 1-2, 3A, and 3B have been amended by adding the label "(PRIOR ART)" below the label on each Figure, as required by the Examiner. Replacement Sheets (as required by 37 C.F.R. 1.121(d)) are attached to this Amendment.

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Remarks

Applicants and their representatives wish to thank Examiner Tran for indicating the allowability of Claims 10-14, 43, 64, 77, and 78. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of Claims 6, 9 and 10. Claim 11 has been rewritten in independent form. Original Claims 2, 6, 9, 15, and 21 have been amended to depend from amended Claim 11. Claim 35 has been amended to include the limitations of Claims 37 and 43. Claim 60 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 64. Claim 73 has been rewritten in independent form and amended to include the limitations of Claims 60 and 77. Claims 37, 43, 64, and 77 have been cancelled. New Claims 79-83 have been added. The remaining Claims have been amended for consistency. Therefore, Claims 1-36, 38-42, 44-63, 65-76, and 78-83 are in condition for allowance.

The Rejection of Claims 1, 35, 46-47, and 49 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In the interest of expediting prosecution of the present application and without conceding the issue of patentability, the rejection of Claims 1, 35, 46-47, and 49 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hill (U.S. 6,031,428) has been obviated by appropriate amendment.

The Rejection of Claims 2-9, 36-42, and 44-45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the interest of expediting prosecution of the present application and without conceding the issue of patentability, the rejection of Claims 2-9, 36-42, and 44-45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hill (U.S. 6,031,428) in view to Doblar (U.S. 6,731,709 B2) has been obviated by appropriate amendment.

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The Rejection of Claims 15-20, 48, 50, 52, 60-63, and 65-75 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the interest of expediting prosecution of the present application and without conceding the issue of patentability, the rejection of Claims 15-20, 48, 50, 52, 60-63, and 65-75 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Filip (U.S. 6,081,572) has been obviated by appropriate amendment.

The Rejection of Claims 21-34, 51, 53-59 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the interest of expediting prosecution of the present application and without conceding the issue of patentability, the rejection of Claims 21-34, 51, 53-59 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over FIG. 1 of the present application in view of Hill (U.S. 6,031,428) has been obviated by appropriate amendment.

Conclusions

Applicants and their representatives again wish to thank Examiner Tran for indicating the allowability of Claims 10-14, 43, 64, 77, and 78 over the cited prior art.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, all bases for rejection are overcome, and the application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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